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1 1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second
3 physician, the first and second physicians being coupled via a telecommunications system
4 to an intermediary having a processor and a storage device to which the processor has
5 access, the method comprising the steps ~~performed in the intermediary using the~~
6 ~~processor~~ of:

7 receiving a request for a consultation from the first physician via the
8 telecommunications system at the processor, the processor being programmed to manage
9 and record the consultation between the first physician and the second physician, the
10 processor and storing the request in the storage device;

11 receiving by the processor a selection made by a staff physician in the
12 intermediary of the second physician, the second physician having an expertise in a
13 specialty in which the consultation is requested by the first physician;

14 sending by the processor the stored request to the selected second physician via
15 the telecommunications system;

16 receiving by the processor a comment made with regard to the consultation via
17 the telecommunications system from the selected second physician and the processor
18 storing the comment;

19 providing by the processor the stored comment from the selected second
20 physician to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

21 on conclusion of the consultation, an accreditation module of the
22 processor recording information concerning the consultation in a continuing medical
23 education database accessible to the processor, the information being associated with the
24 first physician; and

25 creating, by the accreditation module, an accreditation report for the first
26 physician from the information in the continuing medical education database, the
27 accreditation report comprising a certification of the continuing medical education credit
28 earned by the first physician from participation in the consultation.

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1 2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 retrieving by the processor instructional material relevant to the comment and the
4 consultation selected by the staff physician from an information data base to which the
5 processor has access; and
6 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the
7 telecommunications system.

1 3. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing by the accreditation module an examination based on at least the
4 instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;
5 receiving at the accreditation module ~~via the telecommunications system~~ answers
6 for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system; and
7 receiving grading by the accreditation module ~~a grade for the received answers~~,
8 the first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician
9 passes the examination.

1 4. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing by the accreditation module via the telecommunications system an
4 examination based on at least the comment to the first physician;
5 receiving at the accreditation module answers for the examination from the first
6 physician; and
7 receiving grading by the accreditation module ~~a grade for the received answers~~,
8 the first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician
9 passes the examination.